GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2617
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for enrolment of children in schools is not being achieved in spite of extending the area covered under mid-day meal scheme;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the number of absentees from the school has not been checked according to the annual report 2008 of 'Pratham Sanstha';

(d) if so, the details of States where the number of absentees from school has increased as per the report; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to develop the interest of the children for the schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (e): As a result of implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme since 2001-02 all children in the 6-14 years age group, have been enrolled in primary schools; Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) & Alternate & Innovative Education(AIE) Centres; except for 76 lakh out of school children, who represent "difficult to reach category", which is about 3.8% of children in 6-14 age group as per household reports of the States/UTs. The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2007 released by the NGO, 'Pratham' in January 2008 show out of school children at 4.2%. SSA is being run as a community owned programme in which Village Education Committees, Parent Teacher Association, Mother Teacher Association play important role in over-seeing the implementation of SSA programme including the attendance of children. Ministry of Human Resource Development had commissioned independent study in 20 States to track the attendance of students at elementary level in 2006-07. The details are in Annexure.